

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A data ring, comprising:

at least two disconnectable nodes for connecting ~~adapted to connect~~ to appliances and communication ~~communicate~~ with one another, and having a device for fault handling;

a monitoring apparatus for monitoring and driving said nodes; and

an additional node connected to said monitoring apparatus and allowing a fault state to be produced deliberately in said disconnectable nodes.

Claim 2 (original). The data ring according to claim 1, wherein serial data traffic is carried using a protocol including synchronization signals.

Claim 3 (original). The data ring according to claim 2, wherein a configuration of said additional node corresponds to a configuration of said disconnectable nodes; and

a circuit configuration producing a signal not complying with said protocol and connected as said appliance.

Claim 4 (original). The data ring according to claim 1, wherein the data ring is a fiber channel data ring.

Claim 5 (original). The data ring according to claim 3, wherein said additional node interferes with transmission of the synchronization signals to initiate a synchronization fault in said disconnectable nodes.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The data ring according to claim 5, wherein said disconnectable nodes reinitialize upon a data ring fault.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The data ring according to claim 5, wherein said disconnectable nodes reinitialize upon the synchronization fault.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The data ring according to claim 6, wherein said monitoring apparatus ~~device~~ holds said disconnectable nodes in the data ring during the production of the data ring fault in said disconnectable nodes.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A method for operating a data ring, which comprises:

providing a data ring having:

at least two disconnectable nodes for connecting ~~adapted to connect~~ to appliances and communication with one another, and

a monitoring apparatus ~~device~~ for monitoring and driving the  
disconnectable nodes, and

an additional node driveable by the monitoring apparatus ~~device~~ and  
producing a fault state deliberately in the disconnectable nodes;

connecting the additional node by the monitoring apparatus after one of the at  
least two disconnectable nodes has been disconnected or connected ~~one of~~  
~~disconnected and connected~~;

producing [a] said fault state in the disconnectable nodes while holding the  
disconnectable nodes in the data ring; and

removing said one of the at least two disconnectable nodes from the data ring,  
if said one disconnectable node has been disconnected, or adding said one  
disconnectable node to the data ring, if said one disconnectable node has been  
connected ~~removing the originally faulty node from the data ring.~~

Claim 10 (new). A data ring comprising:

at least two disconnectable nodes for connecting to appliances and  
communication with one another, and having a device for fault handling;

a monitoring apparatus for monitoring and driving said nodes; and

an additional node connected to said monitoring apparatus and allowing a fault state to be produced deliberately in said disconnectable nodes, wherein said monitoring apparatus holds said disconnectable nodes in the data ring while producing said fault state in said disconnectable nodes.

Claim 11 (new). The data ring according to claim 10, wherein the data ring is a fiber channel data ring.

Claim 12 (new). The data ring according to claim 10, wherein serial data traffic is carried using a protocol including synchronization signals.

Claim 13 (new). The data ring according to claim 12, wherein:

said additional node is configured to correspond to a configuration of said disconnectable nodes; and

at least one of said appliances is a circuit configuration producing a signal not complying with said protocol.

Claim 14 (new). The data ring according to claim 13, wherein said additional node interferes with transmission of the synchronization signals to initiate a synchronization fault in said disconnectable nodes.

Claim 15 (new). The data ring according to claim 14, wherein said disconnectable nodes reinitialize upon a data ring fault.

Claim 16 (new). The data ring according to claim 14, wherein said disconnectable nodes reinitialize upon the synchronization fault.